

VZCZCXYZ0008
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHBS #1889 3501024
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 151024Z DEC 08
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8351
INFO RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE 0675
RUEHTH/AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE 0528
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN IMMEDIATE 1654
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN IMMEDIATE 7813
RUEHSL/AMEMBASSY BRATISLAVA IMMEDIATE 0414
RUEHUP/AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST IMMEDIATE 0330
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE 4028
RUEHCP/AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE 3605
RUEHDL/AMEMBASSY DUBLIN IMMEDIATE 0274
RUEHHE/AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE 4624
RUEHLI/AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE 0607
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 1775
RUEHLE/AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG IMMEDIATE 8410
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE 0750
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE 9085
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE 0430
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE 2181
RUEHPG/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE IMMEDIATE 5152
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE 3488
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE 1361
RUEHSM/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE 7908
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE 8752
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE 0818
RUEHVI/AMEMBASSY VIENNA IMMEDIATE 1480
RUEHWR/AMEMBASSY WARSAW IMMEDIATE 7185
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE 0097

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 001889

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [ENRG](#) [IEA](#) [BE](#)
SUBJECT: BELGIUM: LOOKING FOR USG FLEXIBILITY ON IEA
2009-2010 BUDGET

REF: STATE 129509

¶1. Econoff shared reftel demarche points on the International Energy Agency (IEA) 2009-10 budget on December 11 with Ambassador Philippe Nieuwenhuys, head of the Energy Department at Belgium's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation (MFA).

¶2. Nieuwenhuys knew the topic well. He said Belgium and a number of other IEA members were opposed to the United States' idea for having similar reform to the IEA budget process as had occurred at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). He said that the USG's desire to repeat the OECD model for the IEA budget was matched by Belgium's desire to avoid such an outcome. At the least, Nieuwenhuys thought the US and others should show some willingness to compromise in Paris at next week's IEA Governing Board meeting. He did, however, indicate that while Belgium preferred the Zero Nominal Growth (ZNG) option, it would consider supporting Zero Real Growth (ZRG) if consensus develops.

¶3. Belgium will be represented at the IEA meetings by Ms. M-P Fauconnier, Director General for Energy of the Ministry of Economy, and by OECD Ambassador Chris Hoornaert. Neither Nieuwenhuys nor anyone from the MFA will attend the meeting.
FOX